GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:552
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
MISUSE OF MOBILE PHONES BY TERRORISTS
Deora Shri Milind Murli;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Pradhan Shri Dharmendra;Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh;Rijiju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent bomb blasts triggered by mobile phones in some parts of the country including Hyderabad and Ajmer, a high level meeting to discuss the issue has been called;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main discussion held in this regard;

(c) the agencies which attended the meeting;

(d) whether the Government has asked Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to come out with a fresh set of rules to be adhered by mobile service providers;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the strategy chalked out by the Government to ensure that mobile connections are not misused for terrorist activities;

(f) the details of loss of lives and property due to such blasts during the last three years till date, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (c): Meetings at high levels are regularly held in the M/o Home Affairs to review and discuss the security situation in the country, progress in investigation and prosecution of terrorist cases etc. Such meetings are attended by the representatives of the security and intelligence agencies of the States and the Centre.

(d) & (e): No, Sir. However, the licence agreement inter-alia lays down that the licensee /service provider shall ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as a subscriber.

(f): As per available information, 9 persons were killed and 58 others were injured in the blast at Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad and 3 persons were killed and 14 injured in the blast at the Dargah of Ajmer Sharif.

(g): The Government remains fully committed to combating the menace of terrorism. The policy of the Government is to counter the challenge posed by terrorism by way of a multi-pronged strategy. In pursuance of this strategy, the Government has taken various measures on political, legal, security and development fronts. The Government is willing to talk to all those groups who agree to abjure violence and surrender arms within the framework of the Indian Constitution. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 as amended in September, 2004 has the necessary provisions to deal with various aspects of terrorism. On the security front, the counter terrorism measures include effective border management to check infiltration across the borders, deployment of Central Forces to aid the State Police Forces in areas prone to terrorist violence, heightened vigil and security arrangements in vulnerable areas and around vital installations, strengthening of intelligence gathering and sharing capabilities, particularly at the cutting edge level, augmentation and modernization of police forces and raising of India Reserve Battalions, ensuring improved technology, weaponry and equipment with the Central and State Police Forces and steps taken to achieve bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation to deal with the global imperatives of terrorism.